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| Notice of Allowability | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| | 10/050,259 | GREINER, HORST |
| | Examiner | Art Unit |
| | Mark Tsidulko | 2875 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to amendment filed on 02/02/04 and interview with examiner's amendment 04 March 2004.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 6,8,9,12 and 18-20.
3. The drawings filed on 16 January 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

5. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 - (a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

7. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. CORRECTED DRAWINGS must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No. _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the Examiner.
 - (c) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet.

9. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

| | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449), Paper No. _____. | <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

DETAILED ACTION

The submission of after final amendment filed on 02/02/04 is acknowledged. At this point claim 6 has been amended, claims 1-5, 7, 10, 11, 13-17 have been canceled and the remaining claims left unchanged. Thus, claims 6, 8, 9, 12, 18-20 are at issue in the instant application.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To insure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization of this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Eric Bram, Reg. No. 37,285 on 03/04/2004.

The following changes to the claim 6 have been approved by applicant:

Claim 6, line 9: "*connected to and extended from the lower side of the optical waveguide plate opposite to the light emission surface*".

Amendment above to Claim 6 is provided for the following reason: previously presented claim 6 disclosed limitation which did not correspond to the drawings and specification, and could be interpreted as a device disclosed by reference US 6,561,663. As now amended, claim 6 claims that the plurality of optical waveguide elements are extended from the lower side of the waveguide plate which is found to be patentably distinct from a prior art.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 6, 8, 9, 12, 18-20 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Referring to Claim 6 the prior art of record fails to show a guide plate having a plurality of optical elements in which the channels are provided and which are optically fixedly connected to and extended from the lower side of the optical waveguide plate opposite to the light emission surface.

Referring to Claims 8, 18 the prior art of record fails to show the second reflecting layer extends over the lateral surfaces and the lower side of the optical waveguide plate.

Claim 9 is allowed as claim depended on claim 8.

Claim 19 is allowed as claim depended on claim 9.

Referring to Claim 12 the prior art of record fails to show that the edges of the channels situated opposite the upper side are surrounded by a third reflecting layer.

Claim 20 is allowed as claim depended on claim 12.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Art Unit: 2875

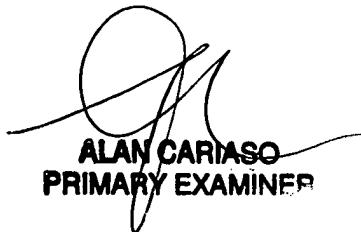
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark Tsidulko whose telephone number is (571)272-2384. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 - 5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sandra O'Shea can be reached on (571) 272-2378. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306 for all communications.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

M.T.
March 26, 2004



ALAN CARRASCO
PRIMARY EXAMINER